

# Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

June 2015

## Fishing Dates

**Puget Sound Dungeness  
Crab Opens July 2 in  
most Areas**

[Click Here for Updates](#)

**Area 7 South  
Dungeness Crab  
Opens July 16**

**Area 8-1  
Tulalip Bubble  
Opens for Chinook  
May 29**

**Most Puget Sound  
Areas Open for Ling  
Cod until June 15**

**Coonstripe Shrimp  
Opens in Most Puget  
Sounds Areas June 1.  
Check Regs for Details**

**Some Puget Sound  
Rivers Open for  
Steelhead June 1.  
Check Regs for Details**

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Opens June 1**

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## Puget Sound Dungeness Crab Opens July 2

Puget Sound Halibut 2015 fishing is now in the record books. However, remember Puget Sound Lingcod goes to June 15 and the next big thing in Puget Sound is Dungeness crabbing. According to the WDFW, Puget Sound Dungeness crabbing is scheduled to open July 2. A sub note on the WDFW web site states that it could possibly open earlier. [Check Here](#) for the latest information on Puget Sound crabbing.

Let's go over some basics for catching Dungeness crab which might sound like stating the obvious. However, I want to direct these tips to the novice crabber and expert crabber alike so everyone walks away with some valuable information.

To begin, we need to look at the different types and shapes of crab pots. There is an old tale that round crab pots work the best. The theory goes like this: when crabs walk around a circular pot, they will not veer off and walk away since they continually walk around a pot until

they find the entrance. True or false, who knows?

I believe the most effective crab pot has an entrance that is 9" to 10" wide. To me, this makes sense since as the size of the crab increases, there should be a larger pot entrance for the bigger sized crab. If the entrance doors restricts ease of entrance, larger male Dungeness crab could go elsewhere.

SMI now has two crab pots with extra-large doors. One crab pot is round (#19035) and now they have a new octagon shaped pot (#19037) with the larger doors. Both pots are rigged with long lasting stainless steel entrance doors. Either of these would be my first choice and sell for \$79 each. Both have a built in bait containers and should will last 5 to 10 years if you hose them down with fresh water after each use.

Danielson also has an octagon crab #CTO3R pot with large entrance doors and a built in bait container which sells for \$79.

To state that you need a \$79 crab pot for success at crabbing might be a pushing it. There is a BUNCH of Dungeness crab caught with the \$20 pots. Both SMI and Danielson make inexpensive folding crab pots with large entrance doors. The main selling point for these crab pots is they come with rope, buoy, harness, bait bag and a crab measure with the cost at just \$39.95 [Click Here](#) for details. These pots will last 3 to 5 years if you hose them off after each trip.

Here is a list of the basics for rigging a crab pot:

- 1) Add 5 lbs. of weight
- 2) 100 to 200 feet of leaded rope



- 3) Extra buoys
- 4) Be certain to put your name and address on the buoy

It is important to add weight to crab pots so the pot is not moving when current pressure is pulling on the rope and buoy. If the crab pot is moving around, crabs are less likely to enter the pot. The second reason basically for adding weight to the pot is so you don't lose the crab pot. Have you ever been salmon fishing and the downrigger cable got tangled in a crab pot line? Most likely the pot drifted because there was not enough weight attached. This could happen to your pot if there is not at least 5 pounds of weight.

Keep in mind that when you attach 100 feet of rope to your crab pot, that does not mean you drop the pot in 100 feet of water. That's sure disaster! A good rule of thumb is: if there is a 100 feet of rope attached to your pot, you should drop your crab pot in only 75 feet of water.

The nice thing about choosing bait for catching crab is these Dungeness crab will eat anything.

#### **Here is a list of crab baits in the order of effectiveness**

- 1) Salmon carcasses
- 2) Clams
- 3) Tuna
- 4) Chicken
- 5) Turkey
- 6) All other fish

If you want to be effective in attracting large male Dungeness crab to your crab pot, it is important to maximize the scent trail being released from the bait container inside the pot. There are two ways to accomplish this: First, bait your crab pots with a large amount of bait. Second, soak your crab bait overnight with a scent designed to

attract crab.

If you are looking for good places to go crabbing near you, check out the map section on my web site, [Click Here](#).

#### **Crabbing tips that were sent to me on Facebook:**

I crab in 185 to 195 feet of water and I always use trout for bait... do very well with it. **By Mike Townsend Jr.**

I fish several pots at various depths...usually a couple shallow at 75 to 100 feet and the rest spread out up to 175 feet. I use fish carcasses I buy from seafood stores (fresh only, no rotten stuff). Make sure you fish through the outgoing tide and a slack tide if you can. And LOTS of bait with some accessible so they keep clicking. Crabs are braggarts. **By James Moors.**

Slack tide is prime time. For bait... want crab, then get some clams. Go dig them, they work incredibly well and they are free! **By Greg Coan**

I crab in 50-100ft of water. Salmon carcass or canned tuna (in oil) most of the time both. My best advice: don't use rotten bait for multiple reasons... The crab eat the bait you're using and then you are eating the crab that just feasted on spoiled meat and handling rotten bait is no fun. If you do.... Bring some Dawn soap with you. **By Jeramie Engels**

I as well use trout for bait. 40'-100' usually. I have tried multiple species and for some reason rainbows fill the pots best. **By Aaron Burdette**

## Tulalip (Bubble) Terminal Chinook Fishery Opens May 29

The only reason that this should be a big deal is there is nowhere else in Puget Sound to catch and keep Chinook salmon unless you are salmon fishing off one of the fishing piers which are open year-around.

**The Tulalip Bubble is open every week Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday (only until noon). I think this is the only area in Puget Sound where two rods are allowed so long as you have a two pole endorsement on your fishing license. Open Saturdays and Sundays only. CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined). Anglers may fish with two poles with Two-Pole Endorsement.**

The most effective rig for the Bubble is a Gibbs Red Racer flasher with a Goldstar Green/Glow OG142R 3.5 squid attached 42" behind the flasher. Rig the squid with two 5/0 black Gamakatsu octopus hooks and 30 lb. leader material with a couple of glow beads between the hooks. Slide a Silver Horde Purple Haze UV Ace Hi Fly down the leader, then slide the Green/White squid over the top of the Ace Hi Fly. Cut the leader off at 46" and tie the leader to the flasher. Now the leader should be about 42" in length.

#### **The gear you need for the Tulalip Bubble:**

Gibbs UV Red Racer Flasher  
Goldstar OG142R Green/Glow Squid

# Just Fishing



Ace Hi Fly UV Purple Haze  
5/0 Black Gamakatsu Hooks  
30 lb. Fluorocarbon leader

Another good place is on the East side of Burrows Island just north of Deception Pass.

(\$114.99).

## Coonstripe Shrimp

### Opens June 1

**Coonstripe Shrimp Opens in most Areas where the Spot Shrimp Season has Ended**

If you want to try a different form of shrimping, it might be time to get a "half inch mesh" shrimp pot so that you can go after Coonstripe shrimp. What's different about this form of shrimping? Well, because it is more like crabbing. Coonstripe shrimp can be found in 100 to 150 feet of water. The sweet spot for catching Coonstripe shrimp is approximately 120 feet. Legally, you are only allowed to harvest Coonstripe shrimp in 150 feet of water or less.

Because of their size, Coonstripe shrimp cannot be caught in shrimp pots you have for spot shrimp. The mesh size of the spot shrimp pots is just too large to keep the Coonstripe shrimp inside the pot.

SMI makes a half-inch [shrimp pot #19023](#) that is good for Coonstripe shrimp. I suggest, again, adding a 5 lb. weight to the pot. These pots do not need to be as heavy as the spot shrimp pot since you are dropping to the same depths as crabbing. Rig the pot with 175 to 200 feet of rope and add at least two yellow buoys at the end of the rope.

Use the same bait you use for spot shrimp:

- 1) Shrimp Pellets
- 2) Ace of Baits Prawn Oil
- 3) Friskies Ocean Whitefish w/Tuna cat food
- 4) Canned Mackerel

[Click Here](#) for a complete selection of shrimp and crab pot accessories.

One good spot to harvest Coonstripe shrimp is off the Northwest end of Camano Island near Rocky Point.

[Click Here for Shrimp Season Updates by Area](#)

## Shrimp Pot Puller Maintenance

If you are done catching shrimp for the season, my advice is not to store the pot puller on your boat. I am seeing shrimp pot pullers with extensive corrosion from storing on boats and being exposed to the moist Northwest air. This is a recipe for a toxic soup that invades everything stored on a boat. The puller is already coated with salt from your shrimping use. The salt coating the puller does a nasty job on your puller when not in use.

At the end of the shrimping season try wiping your shrimp pot puller with a light oil like WD-40 or something similar. An anti-corrosion spray such as CRC 3-36 Multi-Purpose Lubricant and Corrosion Inhibitor in an 11 oz. aerosol is even better.

Store the pot puller in the house where it is warm when not in use. This should cut down chances of something not working when shrimping starts up next year.

## Father's Day June 21 Gift Ideas

Every Dad who is a fisherman loves to get a new fishing reel and new line. A saltwater salmon reel which is tops on my list is the [Shimano Tekota 500](#) (\$165.00) filled with 20 lb. line. This is the most popular salmon fishing reel on the market. In fact, this is the reel that I use. Daiwa makes a good quality Line Counter reel for salmon fishing that comes in both left hand and right hand SG27LC3B

One of the most popular items that I sell to anglers is the [Calcutta Straight Jaw Aluminum Pliers](#) (\$23.50) with Line Cutters. This pliers comes with a sheath and lanyard. Again, this is another personal product I use.

Either one of the reels that I suggested will go great on my #1 recommended 9ft Daiwa Salmon fishing rod [DXS902MLFB](#). This is the fishing rod that I use most of the time. I have a Shimano Tekota 500 on this rod. This is a great Puget Sound salmon fishing rod!

Don't forget about the John's Sporting Goods gift Certificates available in any amounts. Wait until you see the new credit card style Gift Card that we have with a Chinook on the front. These look great and they are even more fun to spend on your favorite fishing gear!

## Puget Sound Rivers Open for Steelhead June 1

Most but not all the Puget Sound River open for Steelhead June 1. Check your regulation Book for details.

**If you do not have the 2014-2015 regulation book [Click Here](#) to view a copy**

**The 2014-2015 Regulation book is currently in effect until June 30, 2015. The 2015-2016 Reg Books will come out near the end of June.**

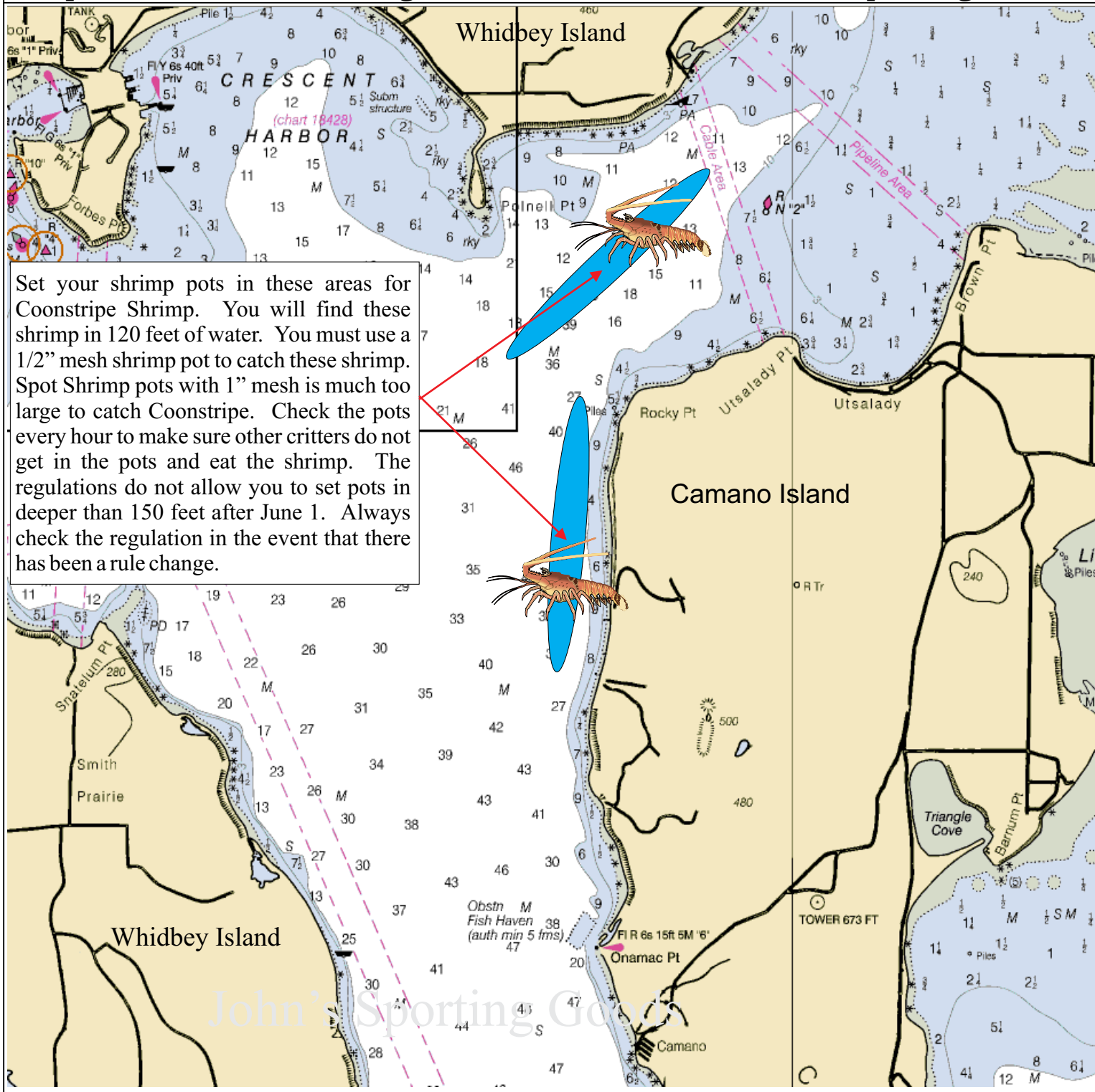


# Fishing Maps



Maps For The Serious Angler

John's Sporting Goods



## Camano Island Coonstripe Shrimp

January	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
					Shrimp	Shrimp	Shrimp	Shrimp			

# Special Purchase

Tackle For The Serious Angler

## Crab Gear Sale



**FTCC Crab Pot Complete**  
**Crab Pot, Trap Harness,**  
**Bait Bag, Buoy,**  
**100ft Leaded Rope, Crab Measure**  
**Sale Price \$39.95**



**Kershaw 7" Fillet Knife 1257X**  
**Sale Price \$12.95**  
**Reg. Price \$19.95**



**100ft Leaded 5/16" Rope**  
**\$9.95**  
**Reg. Price \$11.95**



**SMI 19019 Folding Crab Pot**  
**Sale Price \$14.95**  
**Reg. Price \$22.00**

Prices Good Through June 30th - in Store Purchases Only

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**Scotty Downrigger**  
**Maintenance**  
**300ft Cable**  
**or**  
**300ft Spectra Braid**  
**\$55**

Included in the price is new brake pads, your choice of 300' of 150lb. Cable or 300' 200lb. of Cortland spectra downrigger line, cleaning and lubricating the downrigger.

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**Thursday: Big Fish Day**

**Friday: Deal of the Day**

**Scotty Downrigger Deal**  
**Exclusive at**  
**John's Sporting Goods**

**Scotty 1106**  
**Guide Series**

Installed with  
**300ft 200lb Braided Spectra**  
**#1148 Ball hook**  
**#371 Scotty Snubber**  
**\$525**

**Standard Scotty 1106**  
**\$473**

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